

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-23 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-15 and 18-23, while objecting to claims 5-6 and 16-17. By this Amendment various claims have been amended and claims 4, 5, 15, 16 and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-3, 6-14 and 17-22 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

In an Advisory Action mailed June 25, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the proposed Amendment filed May 19, 2004 would not be entered because it raised new issues. In item 4 of the Advisory Action the Examiner indicated that newly proposed or amended claims 1-3, 6-14 and 17-22 would be allowable if submitted in a separate timely filed Amendment. Accordingly, the claim amendments of the May 19, 2004 Amendment are resubmitted herewith with the following changes. Specifically, claim 23 has been cancelled and new claims 24 and 25 are not submitted with this Amendment. Thus, the only claims remaining in the application are claims 1-3, 6-14 and 17-22 which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.

Claim Objections

In items 2 and 3 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 5-6 and 16-17 as depending from rejected base claims. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1 and claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 12. Thus, it is submitted that amended claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance. In addition, it is submitted that claims 2, 3, 6-11, 13, 14 and 17-22 which depend from claim 1 or claim 12 are also in condition for allowance.

Entry of This Amendment

As indicated above, certain claims have been rewritten in independent form to place them in condition for allowance and the Examiner has indicated that these claims should be allowed. Therefore, it is submitted that no new issues are raised by this Amendment and it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered.

Summary

It is submitted that none of the references, either taken alone or in combination, teach the present claimed invention. Thus, claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-22 are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

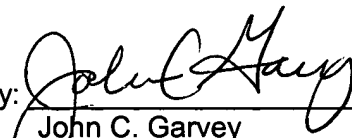
Respectfully submitted,

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